

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Poland

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SUBJECT Status of Government and Party Leaders/
Forced Labor Camps

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25X1 Q. What [] information can you provide on individuals in important positions in government and Party? Do you have any information on the status of Wladyslaw Gomulka?

- A. The highest post in the government and the Polish State is held by Boleslaw Bierut, an obedient pupil of his Moscow Communist masters. He is the real representative of the Moscow Government in Poland. It is quite characteristic that according to the new constitution of 22 July 1952 the President of the State Council, Alexander Zawadzki, should be holding the highest post in the Polish State. In reality, however, Bierut is the man who takes the spotlight at all assemblies, meetings, rallies, parades etc. Zawadzki is also a graduate of the most outstanding Soviet Party schools. There are in Poland now, as silly as it may seem, eight Vice-Presidents of the Council of Ministers and 29 Ministers. The most prominent Vice-President is Hilary Mino, a very able economist, who is at the same time President of the State Commission for the Economic Plan (Planning). The former president of the Council, Cyrankiewicz, who held this post of seven years, now holds the post of Vice-President of the Council. It appears that he wields little influence. [] about the other Ministers and Vice-Presidents of the Council since they are persons completely unknown to the Poles. [] a certain Mr Jendrychowski was appointed President of the Council of Ministers and that he is at the same time Vice-President of the Planning Commission. He is considered one of the most intelligent members of the government. Rapacki, the Minister for Higher Education, whose office is responsible for the administration of all Universities, is a former Socialist who managed a number of cooperatives in Poland during the German occupation. He is said to do everything he can for the benefit of non-Party-member professors threatened with the loss of their jobs. []

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Experience has shown him to be fairly objective and imbued with a desire to provide Polish science and education with the efforts of genuine savants. [] know speak very badly of him, for no other reason, of course, than his attitude in behalf of those who are not Party members. However, his position in the Party appears to be fairly strong since he is not only a member of the Central Committee but also a member of the Political Committee of the Party. Another Minister who is known in Poland as the "Executioner" is the notorious Stanislaw Radkiewicz who has been the Minister for Public Safety for the past eight years. In general I would like to point to the fact that not only the intellectuals but also the large masses of the Polish people do not consider the government and its Ministers Polish Ministers but Soviet Ministers in Poland. It is common knowledge that the government and its

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Ministers receive their orders and instructions either directly from Moscow or from specialists in each field attached to the Soviet Embassy in Warsaw. On the other hand, instructions to the government are also issued by the Central Committee of the Party, which in turn received its orders from the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. Wladyslaw Gomulka, in prison for the past five years, has not been tried yet. He was a Communist, but a Pole also, (a parallel to Tito in Yugoslavia). He could count on a large number of supporters in the Party and most of them were liquidated since then.

2. Q. Will you provide details on location, number and type of prisoners, type of work they are used in, etc. with regard to the forced labor camp [redacted]

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A. [redacted] every other Pole that there are several forced labor camps in Poland, the most notorious of which is the one located at Mielencin near the town of Wloclaw. This camp, [redacted] holds actually about 10 thousand prisoners. Another camp is located between Legnica and Jelenia-Gora; it should also hold about 10 thousand prisoners. Two years ago people were saying there were 300 thousand prisoners confined to forced labor camps. [redacted] this number has decreased materially during the last several months. These prisoners are made to work in the mines. [redacted] saw prisoners from the large forced labor camp of Jaworzno, located about 50 kms from Krakow and 30 kms from Katowice. In this group [redacted] hundreds of prisoners who came from or entered the mines located in this vicinity. Everybody knows this huge labor camp well because it is situated near the national highway which leads from Katowice to Krakow. [redacted] it holds at least 10 thousand persons. In other camps the prisoners are made to perform heavy labor in the rockpits, forests and even on nationalized state farms (PJR). The prisoners are usually former "capitalists," owners of private enterprises, stores, small shops etc, who were sentenced by so-called special commissions authorized to impose sentences of up to two years, to be served in the forced labor camps. Another category is composed of government officials and employees of public enterprises charged with embezzlement, corruption and all other types of offenses. Among the prisoners one may find also a considerable number of young people from 18 to 24 years old, who became completely demoralized and uprooted by the effects of the German occupation and the Communist regime, and who committed a number of crimes, like burglary, robbery, etc. In these camps one may find, therefore, persons completely innocent and sentenced only because they were found to be "enemies of the working class" compelled to share their lot with ordinary criminals.

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